

DRINKING WATER FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE ACT OF 2021

Section by Section Summary

Section 2(a): Community Water System Risk and Resilience

- This section authorizes \$25 million annually in grants for assessing risks from malevolent acts, including terrorism, and resilience to natural hazards and emergency response plans to those threats, by community water systems serving more than 3,300 persons.

Section 2(b): Innovative Water Technologies

- This section authorizes \$10 million annually for technical assistance to public water systems for deployment of innovative water technologies.

Section 2(c): Public Water System Supervision Grants

- This section authorizes \$125 million annually to fund State efforts to implement and enforce federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The grants also assist States in providing technical assistance to water systems struggling with compliance.

Section 2(d): Monitoring Program for Certain Unregulated Contaminants

- This section authorizes \$10 million annually for EPA programs to monitor up to 30 unregulated drinking water contaminants. These monitoring efforts help EPA understand the prevalence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether further federal action is warranted.

Section 2(e): Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

- This section authorizes \$1.9 billion annually for Federal capitalization payments to State Drinking Water Revolving Funds. These Revolving Funds make low-interest loans that are prioritized for drinking water systems in communities struggling to afford both protecting public health and complying with Safe Drinking Water Act mandates.

Section 2(f): Source Water Petition Program

- This section authorizes \$5 million annually for States to protect source water in areas delineated by that State in its source water protection plan.

Section 2(g): Assistance for Small and Disadvantage Communities

- This section authorizes \$60 million annually in grants to small and economically disadvantaged communities, tribes, or States to aid in the provision of household water quality testing and general compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.
- Grantees are responsible for at least 45 percent of the total costs of the project and grants cannot be used to pay for operation and maintenance costs of a water system.

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Section 2(h): Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water

- This section authorizes \$60 million annually for a program to help communities finance programs and activities to reduce the concentration of lead in their treated drinking water, including the replacement of lead service lines.
- Under this program, priority for grants would go to economically disadvantaged communities that either (1) have concentrations of lead in their drinking water that exceeds Federal standards, or (2) need to address lead levels in drinking water at daycare centers, schools, or other facilities serving children.
- Funding would also be targeted towards helping those least able to afford repairs.

Section 2(i): Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools

- This section authorizes \$25 million annually for a voluntary testing program for lead in drinking water in schools and child care centers.
- The program provides for technical assistance to aid in identifying lead in drinking water at schools and day care centers, as well as help affected centers identify other sources of funding to address any lead contamination found in the drinking water of these facilities.
- These provisions guarantee that a priority of any funding is for low-income areas. Entities receiving this funding must make their results public.

Section 2(j): Replacing Drinking Water Fountains in Schools

- This section authorizes \$5 million annually in grants for monitoring, testing, and replacement of school drinking water fountains containing lead components. This section also places a priority on funding to schools based on economic needs.

Section 2(k): Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

- This section reauthorizes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at \$50 million annually, including assistance for state financing agencies and \$5 million for special WIFIA loans.

Section 2(l): Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program

- This section authorizes annually \$20 million in grants to Indian tribes on reservations in the Upper Missouri Basin and Upper Rio Grande Basin to connect, repair, expand existing drinking water services, or improve water quality, pressure, or water services.

Section 2(m): Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment

- This section authorizes \$1 million for a competitive EPA grant program to develop and utilize innovative activities relating to workforce development and career opportunities in the water utility sector. Grants can be used for on-site training, apprenticeship programs, and other educational activities for the sector.